

Over the past few days, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Homeland Security, and the World Health Organization have been investigating and responding to the outbreak of swine flu in the United States and internationally. The President has announced that the emerging cases are being “monitored” and it is a “cause for concern...but it’s not a cause for alarm”. On April 30, 2009, the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health will also hold a hearing to examine the recent outbreak of swine flu and discuss the next steps for a federal response.

At this time, the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services has identified seven probable cases of swine flu in New Jersey residents and is sending the samples to the CDC for confirmatory testing. All seven individuals have mild forms of the flu, were never hospitalized, and are currently recovering at home. The patients are residents from various counties throughout New Jersey

For individuals seeking more information on the outbreaks in New Jersey, the Department has opened a toll-free, 24-hour hotline to answer questions from the general public and New Jersey health care providers; the number to call is 1-866-321-9571.

For additional information on swine flu, I also encourage individuals to visit www.cdc.gov/swineflu or www.nj.gov/health.